MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Quarterly Update

September 2024

FY 24 RECAP

For fiscal year 2024, the Soil and Water Conservation Program's annual budget appropriation for cost-share projects was increased from $40 million to $50 million. Even with the $10 million increase to the cost share appropriation, thanks to the hard work of our district staff and partners, districts were able to fund more than 7,400 projects designed to save soil and protect water quality across Missouri. Of those contracts, the program was able to provide $3.3 million in drought relief in response to Executive Order 23-05. The breakdown of those drought contracts are as follows:

- 1,526 cover crop contracts totaling $3,294,074
- 15 grazing system contracts totaling $73,818

In addition, the commission granted a variance to current cost share policy allowing livestock to graze in excluded practice areas. In total, 61 soil and water conservation districts were able to create 1,573 contracts providing drought relief to Missouri farmers and landowners in the amount of $3,430,545.

Since the first passage of the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax, Missouri has prevented more than 193 million tons of soil erosion while also improving the state's water quality and keeping farmland productive.

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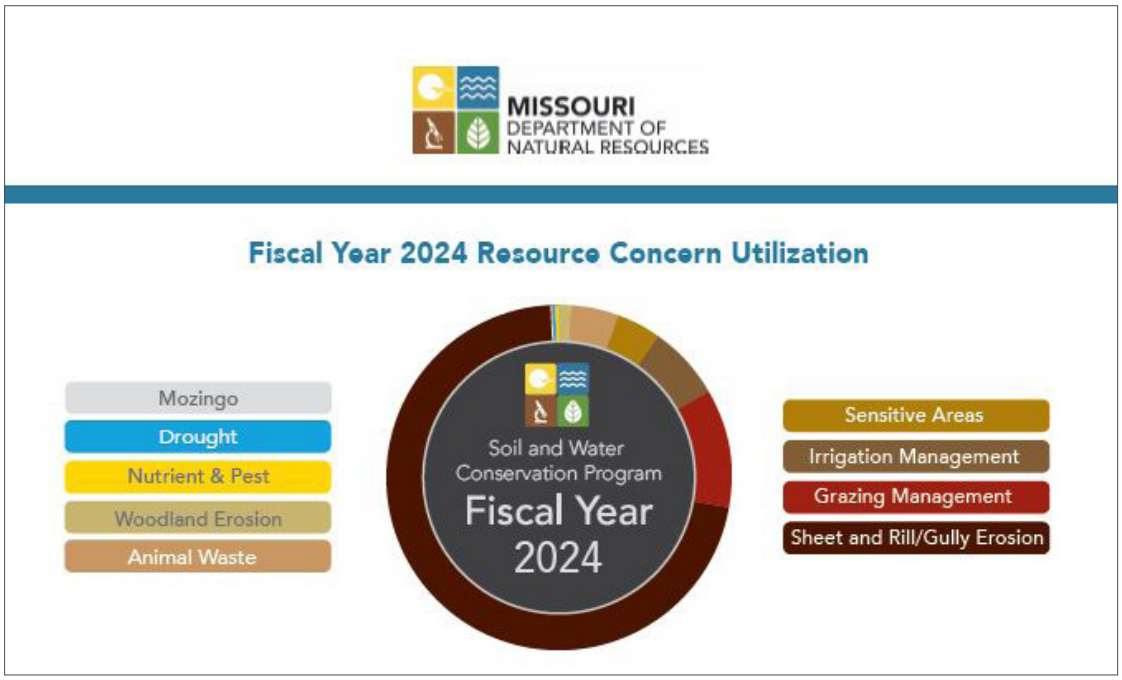
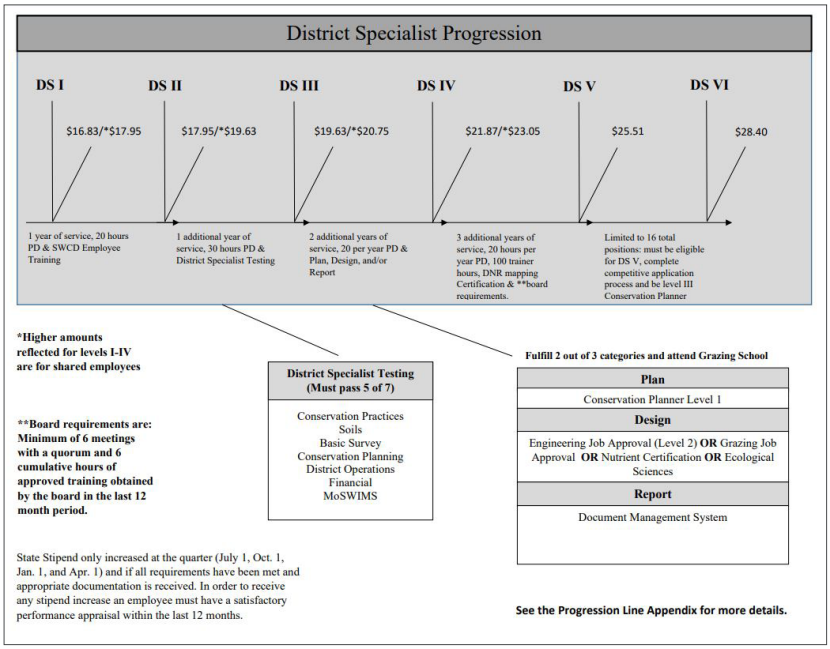


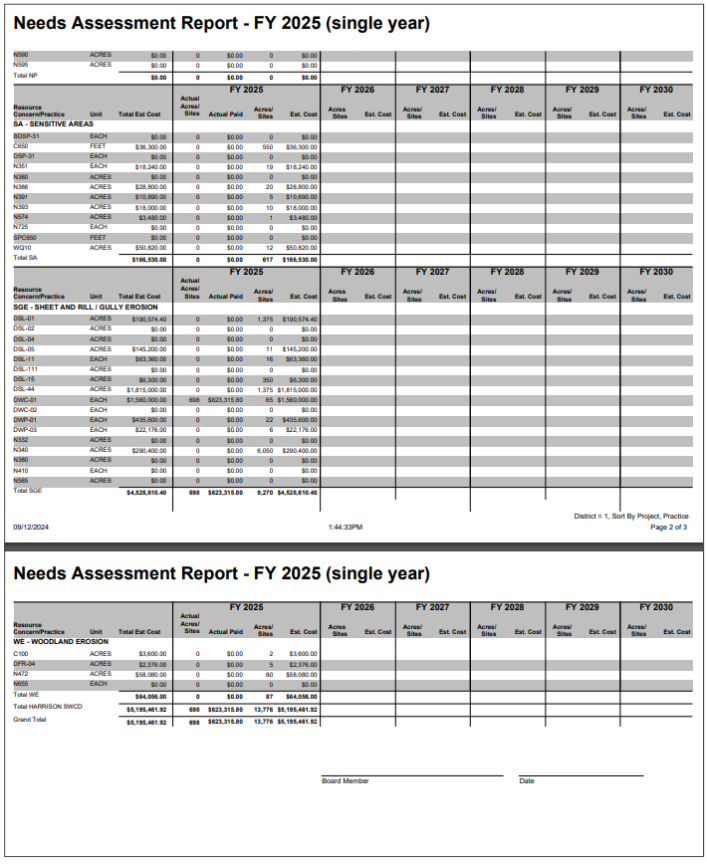
DS IV

The addition of the DSIV position to the progression line has been a topic of discussion for some time and is now a reality beginning at the first quarter of FY25. This position is limited to one person per MASWCD area and is geared towards technical assistance. Each applicant must go through an interview process to be selected as the DSVI for their area. A second round of eight positions will be offered for a total of 16 statewide. Each position will be slightly different in terms of job duties. This is due to Missouri's agricultural diversity and making sure that each area has a subject matter expert for districts to utilize in their geographic location. Since the goal of these positions is to increase overall district capacity, for each DSVI that is hired an additional DSI position will be added to the same area.


District Specialist Progression
DS I
DS II
DS III
DS IV
DS V
DS VI
$16.83/*$17.95
$17.95/*$19.63
$19.63/*$20.75
$21.87/*$23.05
$25.51
$28.40
1 year of service, 20 hours PD & SWCD Employee Training
1 additional year of service, 30 hours PD & District Specialist Testing
2 additional years of service, 20 per year PD & Plan, Design, and/or Report
3 additional years of service, 20 hours per year PD, 100 trainer hours, DNR mapping Certification & **board requirements.
Limited to 16 total positions: must be eligible for DS V, complete competitive application process and be level III Conservation Planner
*Higher amounts reflected for levels I-IV are for shared employees
**Board requirements are: Minimum of 6 meetings with a quorum and 6 cumulative hours of approved training obtained by the board in the last 12 month period.
District Specialist Testing (Must pass 5 of 7)
Conservation Practices
Soils
Basic Survey
Conservation Planning
District Operations
Financial
MoSWIMS
Fulfill 2 out of 3 categories and attend Grazing School
Plan
Conservation Planner Level 1
Design
Engineering Job Approval (Level 2) OR Grazing Job Approval OR Nutrient Certification OR Ecological Sciences
Report
Document Management System
State Stipend only increased at the quarter (July 1, Oct. 1, Jan. 1, and Apr. 1) and if all requirements have been met and appropriate documentation is received. In order to receive any stipend increase an employee must have a satisfactory performance appraisal within the last 12 months.
See the Progression Line Appendix for more details.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Districts are asked to complete the needs assessment each October. The needs assessment is a tool that the state Soil and Water Districts Commission uses to determine how best to allocate state cost-share funds to districts. It utilizes a minimum of two fiscal years of data to determine how much a district could potentially obligate for the upcoming FY. These values are entered in MOSWIMS under the Cost Share tab subsection Needs Assessment. Districts should attempt to make reasonable and realistic values that best reflect their districts needs so that the commission can make the best possible budget estimation for the program's needs. This could mean that a district requests no changes in a certain resource concern, or they could add a resource concern they had never previously utilized, further widening the scope of assistance the district is able to offer their landowners. Once values are entered into the Needs Assessment section, the district needs to be sure to go to the Reports section and choose the management section and reports available Needs Assessment section which will allow the form to be printed with signature lines for the board to sign and submit. The form must be submitted to the program office by 4 p.m. Oct. 31, 2024. Failing to submit this form could impact how quickly the district receives their initial allocation.


Needs Assessment Report - FY 2025 (single year)

Resource Concern/Practice	Unit	Total Est Cost	FY 2025 Actual Acres/ Sites	FY 2025 Actual Paid	FY 2025 Acres/ Sites	FY 2025 Est. Cost	FY 2026 Acres/ Sites	FY 2026 Est. Cost	FY 2027 Acres/ Sites	FY 2027 Est. Cost	FY 2028 Acres/ Sites	FY 2028 Est. Cost	FY 2029 Acres/ Sites	FY 2029 Est. Cost	FY 2030 Acres/ Sites	FY 2030 Est. Cost
N590	ACRES	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
N595	ACRES	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
Total NP		$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
SA - SENSITIVE AREAS																
BDBP-31	EACH	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
C650	FEET	$36,300.00	0	$0.00	550	$36,300.00										
DSP-31	EACH	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
N351	EACH	$18,240.00	0	$0.00	19	$18,240.00										
N380	ACRES	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
N386	ACRES	$28,800.00	0	$0.00	20	$28,800.00										
N391	ACRES	$10,890.00	0	$0.00	5	$10,890.00										
N393	ACRES	$18,000.00	0	$0.00	10	$18,000.00										
N574	ACRES	$3,480.00	0	$0.00	1	$3,480.00										
N725	EACH	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
SPC650	FEET	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
WQ10	ACRES	$50,820.00	0	$0.00	12	$50,820.00										
Total SA		$166,530.00	0	$0.00	617	$166,530.00										
SGE - SHEET AND RILL / GULLY EROSION																
DSL-01	ACRES	$190,574.40	0	$0.00	1,375	$190,574.40										
DSL-02	ACRES	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
DSL-04	ACRES	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
DSL-05	ACRES	$145,200.00	0	$0.00	11	$145,200.00										
DSL-11	EACH	$63,360.00	0	$0.00	16	$63,360.00										
DSL-111	ACRES	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
DSL-15	ACRES	$6,300.00	0	$0.00	350	$6,300.00										
DSL-44	ACRES	$1,815,000.00	0	$0.00	1,375	$1,815,000.00										
DWC-01	EACH	$1,560,000.00	696	$623,319.80	65	$1,560,000.00										
DWC-02	EACH	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
DWP-01	EACH	$435,600.00	0	$0.00	22	$435,600.00										
DWP-03	EACH	$22,176.00	0	$0.00	6	$22,176.00										
N332	ACRES	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
N340	ACRES	$290,400.00	0	$0.00	6,050	$290,400.00										
N380	ACRES	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
N410	EACH	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
N666	ACRES	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
Total SGE		$4,528,610.40	696	$623,319.80	9,270	$4,528,610.40										

09/12/2024 1:44:33PM District = 1, Sort By Project, Practice Page 2 of 3

Needs Assessment Report - FY 2025 (single year)

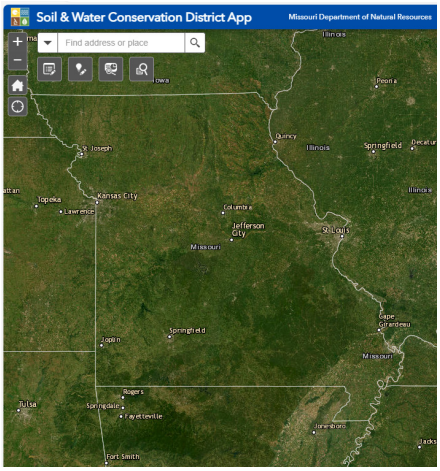
Resource Concern/Practice	Unit	Total Est Cost	FY 2025 Actual Acres/ Sites	FY 2025 Actual Paid	FY 2025 Acres/ Sites	FY 2025 Est. Cost	FY 2026 Acres/ Sites	FY 2026 Est. Cost	FY 2027 Acres/ Sites	FY 2027 Est. Cost	FY 2028 Acres/ Sites	FY 2028 Est. Cost	FY 2029 Acres/ Sites	FY 2029 Est. Cost	FY 2030 Acres/ Sites	FY 2030 Est. Cost
WE - WOODLAND EROSION																
C100	ACRES	$3,600.00	0	$0.00	2	$3,600.00										
CPS-56	ACRES	$2,376.00	0	$0.00	5	$2,376.00										
N472	ACRES	$58,080.00	0	$0.00	80	$58,080.00										
N655	EACH	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00										
Total WE		$64,056.00	0	$0.00	87	$64,056.00										
Total HARRISON SWCD		$5,195,461.92	696	$623,319.80	13,776	$5,195,461.92										
Grand Total		$5,195,461.92	696	$623,319.80	13,776	$5,195,461.92										

Board Member _____ Date _____

PERFORMANCE FUNDING

Providing quality service to Missouri landowners is a top priority of the soil and water program and one way the program is helping provide assistance is offering districts the ability to receive additional funds through a performance-based incentive. This incentive will be provided to districts during the first quarter of each new fiscal year. All districts are eligible to receive the additional performance funding, provided they submit the required documentation. The amount will vary per district based on how the district performed the previous FY. The additional funding is eligible to be used for any purpose that is an approved use of state funds including district salary (added as an additional amount per hour NOT as a lump sum bonus), health insurance, or administrative expenses. Performance-based metrics are used to determine the amount of funding each district will receive. Districts can expect up to a maximum of 1% of their previous cost-share payments or $2,000 – whichever is more in additional funding. The metrics formula used will utilize the following factors from the previous FY: acres served, number of quarterly report returns, diversity of practices, and if the district board met the training/meetings requirements listed on the most current progression line. All board training/meeting requirements should be logged on the provided PD/Training log located on the intranet. Board member training hours are cumulative and could include training conference attendance, commission meeting attendance and area meeting attendance.

FUTURE MAPPING CHANGES ON THE HORIZON



Maps are a required supporting document at payment for any state cost-share practice, and over the years we have had various processes for generating those maps at a level acceptable for payment status. Beginning July 1, 2025 (FY26) the program office will no longer accept notes from districts in MOSWIMS that state the FSA map acres are being used. The goal is that districts will be able to provide the mapped acres by having the NRCS mapping data and the state mapping tool data merge which will allow the district to provide consistent acres listed upon payment time. If your district has questions regarding this change please speak with your district coordinator.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

This quarter the district spotlight is on Christian County. The district has two employees, Cody Hull, who has been with the district for seven years, and Chance Phillips, who has been with the district for four years. Both were hired as technicians but are cross trained to also do administrative tasks, making for a smoother transition if one or the other is out on leave.

The district has several notable achievements, but the thing it's most proud of is the perseverance and quality customer service provided in a multi-year streambank stabilization project, showing that sometimes it takes a while to build relationships and create solutions for landowners, but in the end it creates a positive outcome for all.

The project involved stabilizing and excluding a stretch of creek located on an active dairy farm. Prior to contacting the district for assistance, the landowner made several attempts to fix the crossing on their own with little success. Accelerated erosion and livestock access to the creek were contributing to the degradation of the creek bank leading to the landowner losing the ability to safely cross the creek with equipment, in addition to the erosion encroaching upon structures. The potential solutions to the problem were not an easy sell to the landowner. The landowner was hesitant to implement a project with so many safeguards in place, i.e. the fence and the 25- and 50-foot buffers, pipeline and tanks to go with it. Without intervention streambank conditions continued to degrade, leading the landowner to make the decision to take the districts advice about success stories of other projects and apply it to his own situation.

"The plan was simple. Follow a certified engineers streambank stabilization plan, install an approved creek crossing, add pipeline and tanks where permitted, put up the fence creating the necessary buffers and watch nature heal itself," said Chance Phillips, Christian County District Technician. "The stream crossing is no longer affected by heavy down pours. The 25 and 50-foot buffer areas along the creek are full of vegetation helping hold the soil in place and filtering out runoff from the heavily used areas of the dairy farm."

The district is also in the process of getting back into the classroom with students to educate them on the importance of protecting our soils. Staff were able to spend time with the local Highlandville Junior Ag class to educate students through hands on learning demos the importance of crop rotation and nutrient management.

"It was a great experience for both the kids and us," said Phillips. "One student made the comment that he couldn't wait to tell his grandpa about what he had learned. He said, 'he could really use this!' Hopefully, this is just one of many seeds that our district will be able to plant moving forward."

UPCOMING DATES

October 2: Commission Meeting Jefferson City, MO

October 14: Program Office Closed in Observance of Columbus Day

October 31: FY26 Needs Assessment Due